

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, favorable consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 are pending for Continued Examination.

By this Amendment claims 1-17 are amended above so as to more clearly set forth and distinctly claim the novel and patentable features set forth in these claims. The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter has been added. If the Examiner should disagree, however, it is respectfully requested that the challenged amendments/limitations be pointed out with particularity in the next Action so support may be cited in response.

As all objections and rejections raised in the Final Office Action have been addressed by either the present Amendment or the previously filed Amendment After Final, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative, using the telephone number listed below the signature line, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No. 10/715,415

Atty. Docket No.: 723-1454
Art Unit No.: 3714

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
William G. Niessen
Reg. No. 29,683

WGN/ap/edg
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100